



consumer news

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
Office of Consumer Affairs
Virginia H. Knauer, Director

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Bicycle safety: in the saddle . . .

Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has issued mandatory safety standards for bicycles. Under new regulations published in *Federal Register* July 16 [see CONSUMER REGISTER, this issue], bicycles sold in interstate commerce after Jan. 1, 1975 must have certain safety features. Among the most important are:

- reflectors on front, back, sides & pedals to make bikes visible at night;
- protected edges on metal fenders & coverings for protruding bolts;
- locking devices to secure wheel hubs to frame, handlebar, seat & stem clamps;
- chain guards for bikes whose pedals cannot be reversed to free clothing that has been caught;
- brakes capable of stopping a bike within 15 feet when ridden by a person weighing over 150 pounds at a test speed based on bike's gear ratio;
- instructions for maintenance, including tools needed for assembling bike if sold unassembled.

In addition, the bicycle frame, steering system & wheels will have to meet requirements & tests for safe construction, effectiveness, strength & performance. The commission has also proposed a two-year labeling program under which bicycles that comply with the new regulations will be labeled "Meets U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission Safety Regulations for Bicycles." Bicycles manufactured after Jan. 1, 1975, that don't meet new standards can be banned by commission.

The new bicycle regulations are aimed at reducing the thousands of injuries attributed each year to mechanical & structural problems. Industry experts state that over one million children & adults are injured each year in bicycle-related accidents. The commission estimates that in 1973 alone, over 419,000 people received emergency hospital room treatment for bicycle-related injuries.

According to an analysis of bicycle injuries in CPSC's files, 17% were directly attributable to mechanical & structural failures, 63% were related to loss of control & another 10% to entanglement of body parts. To make consumers more aware of these hazards & how to prevent them, CPSC is planning a nationwide bicycle education program to begin this fall. In the meantime, the agency has published a free fact sheet on selection, use & maintenance of bicycles. For a copy, write to: Bicycle Safety, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, DC 20207 or call the agency's toll-free number, 800-638-2666 (in Maryland, call 800-492-2937).

. . . & on the road

Transportation Dep't. is coordinating a program to develop new Federal standards for bicycle safety throughout the country & to encourage the building of new bikeways.

- National Highway Safety Advisory Committee recommends: (1) that any bicycle on a public highway should follow the same rules of the road as motor vehicles; (2) that standards for optional state or local bicycle inspection programs should be established to insure that safety equipment is properly installed & working; (3) that reporting of bicycle accidents should be better coordinated.

- In addition, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has awarded contracts for a 4-part study on pedestrian & bicycle safety. The Highway Safety Act of 1973 requires Transportation to submit this study to Congress by Jan. 31, 1975. The act also gives Transportation authority to issue uniform state bicycle safety standards; the study will be used to determine what kind of standards are needed.

- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is encouraging states to use Federal funds to build new bikeways, an undertaking which is permitted by the Federal Highway Act.

Can you can it safely?

Do the fresh fruits & vegetables in your garden or at the farm stands give you the urge to can some produce this summer? You'll enjoy it next winter—if you do a competent job of protecting the food against spoilage. From **Agriculture Dep't.** come tips on proper canning methods:

- Don't experiment. Use tested recipes, follow them carefully & also follow instructions that come with your canning equipment. A tried-&-true guide is *Agriculture's Home Canning of Fruits & Vegetables*; send 35¢ for Publication #266B, to Consumer Information, Pueblo, CO 81009.
- Don't cheat yourself on produce. Use only top-quality fruits & vegetables that are fresh & firm.
- Don't scrimp on equipment. That's false economy. Buy proper type of canner for food you will be processing—check with home economist at your local **County Extension Office** if you need advice. Use jars & lids designed for home canning; only these have sufficient strength & proper seal. If your jars aren't new, get new rings for 1-piece lids & new metal lids with sealing compound for 2-piece lids. Never use ordinary bottles such as mayonnaise or baby food jars, or canning jars that are very old or nicked or cracked. Agriculture recommends against using half-gallon jars; they're too big to allow food in center of jar to reach proper temperature.
- Don't take short cuts. You need more than heat alone to kill bacteria, yeast & mold—micro-organisms that cause food spoilage. Your guarantee of safety is the right combination of proper temperature & proper timing. Agriculture strongly advises against oven canning & open-kettle canning. Both methods are dangerous; they do not maintain required temperatures for required time periods.
- Be alert for signs of food spoilage. Beware of bulging can ends, jar lids or rings. Watch for leaks, spurting liquids, off-odors, mold. If in doubt, dispose of the food; don't risk food poisoning.
- For help with methods, recipes & selection of local produce, call your extension home economist; look for "Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service," "Cooperative Extension Service" or "Extension Service" in your phone directory under *County Government*.

FTC limits a new wrinkle

Under a consent order accepted by **Federal Trade Commission (FTC)**, advertising run by Forever Young, Inc., Denver, CO, must stop claiming that its treatments to remove facial wrinkles & blemishes are safe & effective. According to FTC, the company's treatment allegedly uses a chemical solution containing carbolic acid to peel off the outer layer of facial skin. This type of treatment, according to FTC, is frequently used by plastic surgeons who follow more prudent medical techniques than Forever Young—and at fees much lower than the \$2,500 charged by that company. FTC's action also requires that Forever Young's advertising must warn that its treatment may involve pain, infection & permanent scarring, & that any benefits will be mostly temporary. Further, Forever Young must have each patient get approval from a physician before signing a contract with the company.

Down with brownouts

During the months when the demand for electricity is at its greatest level—summer & early fall—the strain on the nation's supply can result in brownouts & blackouts. **Federal Power Commission (FPC)** warns that because of the tight supply of fuel to run electrical generators, brownouts & blackouts could occur during these hot months unless consumers & industry conserve electricity.

FPC is urging consumers to limit the use of electrical equipment (your dishwasher, iron & other heat-producing appliances) to the early morning & the late evening—times when electricity use is not at its peak. Because electricity cannot be stored & must be generated as it is used, FPC says that it is as important to hold down the peak demand for electricity as it is to minimize the total amount of energy used. Higher peak demands, even during short periods, require the use of additional generators & this results in added costs & a drain on our fuel resources.

For more information on electricity & how to use it, you may want to get a free copy of *Energy Conservation: It Benefits All of Us* by writing to the Federal Power Commission, 825 N. Capitol St. NE, Washington, DC 20426.

Warnings!

SPRAY SHAMPOO—Food & Drug Administration (FDA) announces that it has asked manufacturer to recall certain lots of Psssst Shampoo and Psssst Instant Shampoo for Extra Oily Hair. Lot numbers involve all codes where last number is 0, 1, 2 or 3 (i.e.: K1023A); these include 7-oz. and 14-oz. cans of both shampoos. Product was recalled by Clairol, Inc., Stamford, CT because short weight occurred, after manufacture, as result of defective gaskets.

PESTICIDES — Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has released names of an additional 42 pesticide aerosols containing vinyl chloride as a propellant; the gaseous chemical is suspected of causing a form of liver cancer. Two of the products are for outdoor use & 40 for indoor use. Fourteen of the indoor sprays have been suspended from sale & are subject to recall; the other 26, according to the manufacturer, deleted the use of vinyl

chloride in Sept. 1973. Brand names follow; for all manufacturers' names & their comments on EPA's action, write to Environmental Protection Agency Information Center, Washington, DC 20460; ask for vinyl chloride release dated July 1, 1974.

Indoor sprays are: Pet Repel "Number 120"; "K" Insect Spray "Zap Insecticide"; McNess Push-Button Spray Insect Killer; Kilzum Fly & Mosquito with allethrin; Kilzum Crawling Insect Killer with Baygon; Insect Repellent for Personal Use; Patterson's Aerosol Insect Killer; Lice & Mite Spray; African Violet Spray; Dogette Flea Killer & Coat Conditioner; Catette Flea Killer; Insecticide for Flying Insects; Blue White Ant & Roach Killer; Kil Kill-M Insecticide; IMPACT Insect Spray; Insecticide for Flying Insects (Freese-meier Labs); Super Deth for Flying Insects; Insecticide for Flying Insects (Vego Chem. Co.); Fly-

Doom; Research Fly Killer; Bug-Deth (Progress Chemicals, Inc.); Bug-Deth (Americhem Research Corp.); Bug-Deth (Ruth Industries); Insecticide for Flying Insects (Dart Research); Bug-Deth (Essential Products); PHAUG; Insecticide for Crawling Insects (Spray-Chem Corp.); Res. Roach & Bug Killer Insecticide; Roach 'n Ant Killer with Dizon; Insect Repellent (Spray-Chem Corp.); Insect Repellent (Twin Bridges Store & Canoe Rental); BUG-OFF Insect Repellent; Clover Insect Repellent; Insect Repellent for All Insects (Sin-Ro Division Central States Chem. Co.); Patterson's Ant & Roach Spray, contains Baygon; KILZUM Ant & Roach Killer with Baygon; Good-Life Ant & Roach Killer with Baygon; Gateway Insect Fogger. The 2 products for outdoor use are: Weedkiller (Demert & Dougherty); Tomato Set Spray (Sherwin Williams).

Program chairmen: try nutrition education

Looking for lively & informative program material for your organization's first fall meeting? How about an animated film starring Dick Van Dyke? There's one available, produced by Food & Drug Administration (FDA), to explain its program for nutrition labels on certain food packages. The 14-minute film may be borrowed, free, by any consumer or community group. Contact your FDA district office or write Modern Talking Picture Service, 2323 New Hyde Park Rd., New Hyde Park, NY 11040. Film may also be purchased for \$58.25 from National Audiovisual Center, Sales Branch, Washington, DC 20409; make check payable to National Archives Trust Fund.

Next-to-last chance

This convenient coupon—for commenting on a CONSUMER REGISTER item—is being printed as a 3-month pilot project. Coupon will appear only 1 more time after this issue. Use this one now & send it to Office of Consumer Affairs, Washington, DC 20201.

Clip this form, fill in blanks, write your comments & mail to CONSUMER REGISTER, Office of Consumer Affairs, Washington, DC 20201.

This is my opinion on (title of item in CONSUMER REGISTER) _____

by (name of agency) _____,

published in *Federal Register* on (date) _____ on (page) _____

Name _____ Date _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Dear Consumer:

Is thrift a forgotten virtue? I think not. I do believe we can all live far more thriftily than we have in recent years since affluence became our password.

All of you, I am sure, remember or have read or heard about the sensible penny-pinching habits Americans followed in the past. Those habits worked for us then—why not now?

Let me pass along to you some ideas for savings which have been sent to me by readers. These dollar-pinching ways might help us begin to cope with today's higher living costs.

- Get current data on services & costs from your local phone company. Are lower rates available for a different kind of service that you could be satisfied with? Are you placing long-distance calls at the best possible times? (Could you write a card or letter instead of calling?) Could you give up an extension or use a plainer instrument?
- Double-check your magazine subscriptions as they expire. Could you get better rates from another subscription service? Could you do without some? How about depending on your local public library?
- When you need household goods, scour your local department store for floor samples, clearance corners; ask salespersons about these features. Shop the warehouse sales & drop in looking for unadvertised specials too.
- Cut yourself down to only 1 credit card—keeps your credit purchases to a minimum, & you stand to lose less if you should lose your card case.
- Remember that old New England adage: Use it up—make it do—do without.

Sincerely,

Virginia Knauer

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